

Director's Report

October 2002

Marc Gaspard, executive director

WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD

Gov. Locke visits campuses to honor Promise recipients

Gov. Gary Locke launched a statewide tour of college campuses this month to honor this year's recipients of the Washington Promise Scholarship.

The governor presented scholarship certificates to students at Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University and Clark College.

"Every student in Washington state deserves the chance to go to college," Locke said. "My goal with the Promise Scholarships is to let students know they can reach for the stars, if they put their minds to it."

The governor created the Washington Promise Scholarship program in 1999.

During the 2002 legislative session, lawmakers made the program permanent and Locke signed it into law.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must either rank in the top 15 percent of their senior classes, or earn a combined score of at least 1,200 on the SAT or at least 27 on the ACT on the first attempt. Their family income can be no more than 135 percent of the state's median family income - about \$85,900 for a family of four.

"This scholarship will help students meet the increasing costs of



Attending the Promise Scholarship award ceremonies at Pacific Lutheran University in early October were (from left): PLU President Dr. Lorne Anderson, HECB staff member Karrin Ford, Gov. Gary Locke, HECB staff member Madelyn Jacques and HECB Executive Director Marc Gaspard.

staying in college," said **Marc Gaspard**, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB).

"Hard-working students should not have to debate whether to stay in college or drop out because of rising tuition costs," Gaspard added. "The Promise Scholarship will help these deserving students make ends meet."

The HECB administers the scholarship program, with assistance from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Nearly 6,700 college freshmen and sophomores are eligible for scholarships this year,

receiving up to \$948 each. About \$6.3 million in state money will be used to fund the program this year.

Students may use the scholarships at public two- and four-year colleges and universities, or accredited independent colleges, universities and private career schools in Washington.

Helping out at the PLU event were HECB staffers **Madelyn Jacques** and **Karrin Ford**. As they both work with the Promise Scholarship program, they were able to answer questions about the program from both parents and students.

HECB staff participates in statewide sustainability practices group

When Gov. Gary Locke asked state agencies to work together on an effort to introduce sustainability in state government, the HECB nominated **John Fricke** to be its voice.

Fricke, associate director for budget and policy, represented the higher education community at meetings and throughout the development of the governor's directive on

sustainable environmental practices by all state agencies.

Sustainability is defined as meeting current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations. It applies to purchasing decisions for any kind of resource-related needs.

Many colleges and universities already are engaged in sustainability

practices through activities such as recycling.

Fricke was recognized by the governor's acting policy director, Carol Jolly.

In a letter to Fricke, Jolly wrote: "Because of your efforts and others, the state is on a path toward maintaining a high quality of life while preserving resources for future generations."

HECB gets \$1 million federal grant for teacher, principal training

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has received a \$1 million federal grant to help teachers, paraprofessionals and principals improve their classroom and leadership skills.

The grant is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, designed to provide all children a fair, equal and significant opportunity to get a high-quality education.

The Act, passed in 2001, reauthorizes and amends federal education programs established under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965.

The Professional Development Partnership Grants must use research-based strategies to train practicing teachers, highly qualified paraprofessionals and principals.



"No Child Left Behind makes history in American education and builds futures for America's students."

Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education

The goal is to raise student achievement in the core academic subjects, such as mathematics and reading, and to ensure that every child has the opportunity for a high-quality education.

These partnership grants replace the Eisenhower Partnership Grants that had been administered previously by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Proposal development activities may include:

- ♦ Training in core academic subjects for teachers and paraprofessionals; and/or

- ♦ Instructional leadership skills for principals.

The Board has assembled an advisory committee to help with the process.

Committee members include representatives from OSPI, the State Board of Education, teachers, principals, education associations and private, nonprofit organizations.

The HECB will distribute a Request for Proposals (RFP) Oct. 31. Proposals are due to the Board Feb. 12, 2003. The Board will make awards soon thereafter.

For more information, contact **Elaine Jones** at 360-753-7823.

Agency welcomes new employees

This month the HECB says "hello" to a new full-time employee to the Board.

Pamela Holt is learning the ropes as the second customer service representative for Guaranteed Education Tuition Program.

Pam previously worked as an administrative assistant for the City of Mercer Island. Prior to that, she worked 10 years as an executive assistant with the Puget Sound Educational District.

Also new to the GET staff is **Grace Nguyen**, a work study student studying for her bachelor's degree at the Evergreen State College.

Welcome to Pam and Grace!

In the Works

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, an internal recruitment is now under way for the program manager position vacated by Dana Lemay. The agency anticipates making a hiring recommendation by the first week of November.

HECB's Nina Oman elected vice president of western regional research group

HECB Associate Director for Policy **Nina Oman** recently was elected vice president of the Pacific Northwest Association of Institutional Research.

The 120-member group is composed of representatives from public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities, and state and provincial agencies from

Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

The group's mission is to share and disseminate information on research and planning in higher education.

Oman's terms begins this month. She will transition to president during the next year, and then serve as past president.

GET program continues to grow customers



As of Sept. 30, 2002:

24,161 total active accounts
(99 new enrollments since Sept. 15)

5.1 million tuition units purchased

\$162.7 million in payments received

\$226 million total value
(includes future payments expected)

The GET committee will meet Dec. 3 to hear recommendations for contracting with an investment firm for the college savings plan.